

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-05 OMB-01 /082 W

----- 077808

R 091145Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4268

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

US MISSION GENEVA 634

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 5955

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PFOR PINR PLO UR

SUBJECT: 'ARAFAT'S MOSCOW TALKS DESCRIBED AS "DISASTER".

REF: BEIRUT 5915

1. PALESTINIAN JOURNALIST FOR PRO-EGYPTIAN WEEKLY AS SAYYAD, FARID AL KHATIB (BORN HAIFA, ALLEGEDLY PRO-FATAH) SAID MAY 8 THAT 'ARAFAT'S RECENT VISIT TO MOSCOW WAS, IN FACT, "DISASTER" AND THAT THERE WAS NO RPT NO AGREEMENT ON BASICS. CITING PLO OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN ABDUL MUHSEN ABU MAYZAR (WHO WAS MEMEBER OF 'ARAFAT'S DEL) AS HIS SOURCE, KHATIB GAVE FOLLOWING RUNDOWN ON POINTS OF DEADLOCK:

A) RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL - 'ARAFAT REJECTED CATEGORICALLY ANY PUBLIC RECOGNITION OF ISRAELI STATE OR EVEN HINT OF WILLING-
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NESS TO COEXIST WITH ISRAEL IN CONTEXT OF POLITICAL SETTLEMENT.

B) SOVIETS THEN PROPOSED TAKING ENTIRE ISSUE BACK TO THE UNITED NATIONS FOR REDEFINITION THAT WOULD ENCOMPASS NOT ONLY "PALESTINIAN RIGHTS TO SELF-DETERMINATION" BUT ISRAELI RIGHT TO RECOGNITION AND SECURITY WITHIN PRE-1967 BORDERS. 'ARAFAT VETOED THIS ALTERNATIVE AS WELL.

C) WHEN SOVS INTRODUCED QUESTION OF MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AID TO PLO, 'ARAFAT QUASHED DISCUSSION WITH ARGUMENT THAT SUBJECT WAS "PREMATURE".

D) FINALLY, 'ARAFAT TOTALLY REJECTED SOVIET EFFORTS TO PRESS HIM TO FORM PALESTINIAN GOVT-IN-EXILE.

2. COMMENT: WE PASS ALONG THIS UNCONFIRMED SKETCH OF SOVIET/PLO DIALOGUE AS INDICATION OF KIND OF RUMOR WHICH IS ALREADY BEGINNING TO CIRCULATE AMONG KNOWLEDGEABLE PALESTINIANS. WHATEVER TRANSPIRED IN MOSCOW AND BAKU, 'ARAFAT WILL UNQUESTIONABLY ENDEAVOR TO AVOID BREAKING WHAT MAY NOW BE MORE TENUOUS LINK WITH USSR. HIS MAJOR ALTERNATIVE TO SOVIET SUPPORT, WHICH HE STILL HOPES WILL GET HIM TICKET TO GENEVA AT PRICE HE CAN AFFORD TO PAY, IS SOME KIND OF RECONCILIATION WITH "REJECTIONISTS" WHO WOULD BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO ASSUME SOME OF THE PRESTIGE AND POWER 'ARAFAT MIGHT BE FORCED TO SACRIFICE IN ACCEPTING THEIR "WE TOLD YOU SO" EMBRACE.

GODLEY

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